

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA**  
**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS POLICY**

**Subject**

Cost Responsibility for the Construction of Flood Control and Drainage Facilities Within Road Rights-of-Way

**Policy  
Number**

I-53

**Page**

1 of 3

**Purpose**

To define and assign financial responsibility for the construction of Road, General Plan Flood Control or Drainage facilities or maintained Flood Control and maintained Drainage facilities constructed within maintained Road rights-of-way.

**Background**

Construction of Road facilities is normally paid for only from Road funds, and construction of Flood Control facilities and Drainage facilities is normally paid for only from Flood Control funds. However, frequently there are cases where Road, Flood Control or Drainage facilities cross each other, or make use of the same easements.

In these cases, it is necessary to assign to each fund source its appropriate share of the total construction cost of Flood Control, Road or Drainage facilities.

Maintained Flood Control facilities are generally those constructed to transport runoff from areas larger than one square mile. Drainage facilities are those constructed to transport runoff from areas less than one square mile. Road facilities are those constructed to provide all weather vehicular access. Drainage and Flood Control facilities are normally constructed as pipes, boxes, lined or natural channels.

**Policy**

It is the policy of the Board of Supervisors acting as the Board of Directors of the San Diego County Flood Control District that:

Whenever a project involving Road, Flood Control or Drainage facilities within a road right-of-way is initiated by either the District or the County that:

**DRAINAGE**

1. When a natural watercourse exists within the road right-of-way paralleling or crossing a road, the Road Fund will pay 100% of the cost of construction of all Drainage facilities that parallel or cross the road where the flow can be contained in a pipe of 36 inches in diameter (based on capacity using CMP) or where the quantity of flow is less than 100 cubic feet per second.
2. Whenever the runoff from drainage areas is greater than 100 cfs, and less than 450 cfs, the cost difference between a 36-inch pipe and the pipe or culvert size needed to carry the flow will be paid for from the Flood Control fund.

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**Policy  
Number**

I-53

**Page**

2 of 3

**FLOOD CONTROL**

1. Wherever the flow from runoff exceeds 450 cfs cost sharing will be based on the following rules:

a. The cost for providing an equivalent open channel shall be computed. The cost for providing the necessary closed structure to cross or parallel the road shall be computed and the cost difference between the equivalent open channel and the closed structure shall be computed. These costs shall be changed to percentages. The Flood Control fund shall pay that percentage of the cost based upon the equivalent open section cost and the Road fund shall pay that percentage of the cost based upon the difference between the equivalent open channel cost and the closed structure cost.

b. Appurtenances, such as fences, shall be included in the Flood Control cost.

2. Bridges--The Road fund shall pay 100% of the cost of a bridge and any additional channelization made necessary by or primarily to protect a bridge across an open channel. The Flood Control fund shall pay the cost of any remaining channeling or miscellaneous costs such as fencing.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

1. Where projects have been agreed to and where the necessary California Environmental Quality Act procedures have been complied with, the approved projects will be budgeted in the Flood Control fund.

2. Where Community Planning Groups desire Flood Control and Drainage facilities which cost more than the facilities shown in an adopted General Flood Control Plan for the area, the extra cost made necessary by reason of the community plan shall be financed from sources other than the Road fund or the Flood Control fund.

3. Special Problems--Where special problems are created which have not been covered previously, the cost sharing shall be based on the evaluation of the problem and upon negotiation as to the proper cost sharing percentages.

Problems in this category include changes such as those made necessary by either a Road or Flood Control channel where the construction of one leads to modification of the other, or where the channel represents a man-made channel relocated from its natural watercourse.

4. Where interim Flood Control improvements are being made and where the Flood Control channel is not being constructed to its ultimate design at the same time and where

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Cost Responsibility for the Construction of Flood Control and  
Drainage Facilities Within Road Rights-of-Way

**Policy  
Number**

I-53

**Page**

3 of 3

the Road project is the initiator of the joint project, the Road fund will pay for the interim improvement made necessary in order for the Flood Control channel to operate effectively.

5. Where either the Flood Control channel or the Road has previously been brought to its ultimate standard, all costs of change because of the project shall be borne by the agency carrying the project.

6. For projects where the area is not included in a Flood Control district the Drainage or Flood Control share shall be provided by local assessment, rather than by Flood Control funds.

**DEFINITIONS**

**ULTIMATE:**

a. Ultimate means construction to that which is shown in the circulation element of the San Diego County General Plan for that road.

b. For Flood Control this means sized as necessary for that design based on the design flood.

**GENERAL PLAN SYSTEM FOR DRAINAGE AND FLOOD CONTROL:**

The project which has been developed and adopted by the Board of Directors on recommendations of the several Zone Commissions.

**Sunset Date**

This policy will be reviewed for continuance by 12-31-17.

**Board Action**

11-27-73 (100)

11-27-73 (3)

8-22-89 (47)

11-01-00 (7)

08-07-02 (5)

12-09-08 (33)

11-10-10 (7)

**CAO Reference**

1. Department of Public Works